

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A device for handling a liquid sample, said device comprising:
at least one flow path;
at least one zone for receiving the sample;
a transport or incubation zone; and
at least one sink comprising an area having projections substantially vertical to its surface, said projections configured to achieve a capillary flow and thereby;
~~wherein said at least one sink has a capacity to receive said liquid sample and~~ support
or control the flow rate of said liquid sample through said transport or incubation zone.

Claim 2. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein:
said at least one flow path is two or more flow paths;
said at least one sink is two or more sinks;
each flow path of said two or more flow paths is connected to a sink of said two or more sinks; and
said device is adapted to perform multiple analyses on one liquid sample.

Claim 3. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 1, wherein
said at least one flow path is two or more flow paths;
said at least one sink is one sink;
each flow path of said two or more flow paths is connected to said one sink; and,
said device is adapted for performing multiple analyses on one liquid sample.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein said multiple analyses are performed in parallel.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 3, wherein said multiple analyses are performed in parallel.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one flow path is adapted to accept a serial addition of multiple compositions.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one sink is adapted to respond to an external influence to regulate ~~the capacity of said at least one sink to receive said liquid sample~~ the flow rate of said liquid sample through said transport or incubation zone.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 7, wherein said external influence is selected from the group consisting of heating, cooling, irradiation with visible light, infrared irradiation, vibration, and the application of an electronic current.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 8, wherein said at least one sink is adapted for division into sub-sections, said sub-sections adapted to being serially subjected to said external influence.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one sink, or a sub-section thereof, is capable of being heated to evaporate said liquid sample there from.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one flow path is in fluid connection with said at least one sink and wherein said at least one flow path is selected from the group of flow paths consisting of a flow path formed as a capillary groove, [[or]] a flow path formed as an open channel, a flow path formed as a closed capillary, [[and]] a flow path formed as a tortuous path through a fibrous material [[or]], and a flow path formed as a tortuous path through a gel-like material.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one flow path is in fluid connection with said at least one sink, and wherein said at least one flow path comprises areas having substantially vertical projections.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein said vertical projections have different cross sections in different zones of said at least one flow path.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said device further comprises a design feature to prevent back flow of said liquid sample.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn) A method of performing a chemical or biochemical assay involving a reaction between an analyte in a sample and one or more reagents, said method comprising:

adding a sample to the device of claim 1 and
reacting said sample with one or more reagents.

Claim 16. (Withdrawn) A method of performing a chemical or biochemical assay involving a reaction between an analyte in a sample and one or more reagents, said method comprising:

reacting a sample with one or more reagents on the device of claim 1.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) A method for handling liquid samples, the method comprising using adding said samples to the device of claim 1.

Claim 18. (Withdrawn) A method of pre-treating a liquid sample, prior to performing a chemical or biochemical assay, the method comprising using the device of claim 1.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein said design feature is a set of vertical projections having different cross sections in different zones of said at least one flow path or an external influence, wherein said external influence is selected from the group consisting of heating, cooling, irradiation with visible light, infrared irradiation, vibration, and application of an electric current.

Claim 20. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein said projections have a configuration selected from the group consisting of: height, diameter, and reciprocal spacing.